## WAPDA withdraws support to KESC

# People suffer as loadshedding continues

**By Our Reporter**

KARACHI, Jan 1: There was no respite from loadshedding for the Karachiites on the first day of the new year as the KESC was compelled to resort to loadshedding to the tune of 200mw owning to lack of backup support from WAPDA on Friday.

The KESC has divided the city into four zones for loadshedding on relay basis.

Loadshedding continued from 5 pm to midnight in the industrial and residential areas.

WAPDA, which had been directed by the federal minister for water and power to provide KESC the required backup support, had failed to comply directives perhaps owing to its own difficulties.

The loadshedding of 200mw in the city at least deprived the country of one shift production in the industries located here, which in rupee terms meant loss of billions of rupees.

The KESC was also under pressure to resort to loadshedding because of sudden withdrawal of WAPDA support at a time it had put one of its unit on routine maintenance while the other unit was not operative due to technical faults.

In view of the precarious situation, the KESC managing director Kamal Afsar said maintenance had been called off and the unit would be back on line by Monday.

He said that KANUPP which was providing 80 mw was not available, he said.

Analysts said in view of the looming power crisis hinted by the minister for water and power, the need for having another KESC generating plant was imperative to meet the future requirement.

They said if that was not done, not only the industries but domestic consumers would suffer.

It would also affect the industrial productivity, and thus reduce the capability to generate export earnings for paying back the debts and financing development projects.

"The scenario painted by Mr Gohar Ayub is dreadful and means that all the plans we have for the future would suffer affecting our ability to defend the country," said an analyst.

Asked about the controversy over outstanding dues against the KESC, its managing director said the matter had already been decided and five year bonds were being issued to pay back the dues to PSO and the SSGC.

So there should be no controversy about cash payment for its transactions, he added.